

EPA Strategic Plan Goal 1: Core Mission		FY 2023 Draft/Final Workplan - MD	
		Date Submitted:	July 1, 2022
Objective 1.2: Provide for Clean and Safe Water			
Work Plan Component/Program	EPA Contact(s):	State Contact(s):	PRC:
Underground Injection Control Program	Himanshu Vyas 215-814-2112	Mary Dela Onyemacchi 1-410-537-3783 Tracy Rocca-Weikart 1-410-537-3659	000B08
Work years: 2023			
Program Description: The Safe Drinking Water Act established the Underground Injection Control (UIC) program to ensure that wastewater injected underground does not endanger existing and future underground sources of drinking water (USDW).			

Environmental Outcomes	Outputs for FY 2023 (Commitments)	Status/Comment
<p>Implementation of an effective UIC program through permitting, inspections and enforcement to protect the quality of underground sources of drinking water.</p> <p>- Achievement of compliance through corrective action, resulting in improved water quality.</p> <p>- Closure of underground injection wells, resulting in improved water quality.</p> <p>- Improved public health protection.</p> <p>- Increased awareness of owners or operators regarding requirements for operating a Class V well.</p>	<p><u>Maryland</u></p> <p>1) <u>Permits</u></p> <p>In FY2023, we anticipate issuing approximately 6 UIC permits for industrial wastewater discharges and 6 UIC permits for municipal wastewater discharges to large capacity septic systems.</p> <p>2) <u>Inspections</u></p> <p>In FY2023, we anticipate conducting approximately 350 unannounced inspections in Maryland.</p> <p>State-wide inspection for MVWDWs is mandated and planned, but inspections target watersheds for priority evaluation in coordination with the Water Supply Program. Wellhead Protection Areas (WHPAs) within specific watersheds will be assessed for susceptibility to ground water contamination.</p> <p>Coordinate with other state programs e.g., Wellhead Protection, Underground Storage Tank, Nonpoint Source Control, Mining and CERCLA programs to assist in identifying Class V wells for inspection, inventorying, compliance assistance and permitting.</p> <p>3) <u>Compliance/Enforcement</u></p> <p>Upon issuance of a discharge permit, follow-up inspections will be conducted by MDE'S Compliance Program staff. Permit compliance will also be confirmed by the review of</p>	<p><u>Reporting Requirements</u></p> <p>Maryland agrees to comply with all UIC reporting requirements in accordance with 40 CFR §§ 144 and 146 and updated UIC Guidance # 70, dated August 2, 1991, including Forms 7520 part 1 – IV.</p> <p><u>October 15, 2022</u> – UIC Well Inventory (cumulative/program history) through Federal Fiscal Year (September 30, 2020).</p> <p><u>April 10, 2023 / October 15, 2023</u> 1) 7520 forms– Parts I thru IV 2) Progress/ narrative report detailing any achievements or problems meeting Workplan Outputs/Outcomes.</p>

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<p>- Increased public awareness through Public Education of the risks posed to USDWs by means of unsafe injection practices</p>	<p>Discharge Monitoring Reports. Facilities out of compliance will receive compliance assistance, and will be subject to enforcement action, if determined necessary. Businesses with Class V wells will continue to be identified through site inspections, as well as targeted via use of GIS tools. A Notice of Violation is issued by the inspector at the time of the visit when a Class V well is found. Coordination with the Enforcement Program, when necessary, will be pursued to achieve compliance with Notices of Violations.</p> <p>4) <u>Technical Assistance</u></p> <p>Provide technical assistance and guidance to county Health Departments, other state and local agencies and the regulated community on Class V well issues</p> <p>5) <u>Outreach/Education</u></p> <p>Continue work with county sanitarians in encouraging early education of building permit applicants on Class V well concerns in unsewered areas, and implementation of Class V Rule.</p> <p>Develop contacts with trade associations of other types of Class V wells to educate them of UIC regulatory requirements and provide compliance assistance. This includes dry cleaners and farm-based food processing operations such as farm breweries, creameries and small on-farm poultry raising and slaughtering operations.</p> <p>Update the program website with information regarding the UIC program.</p> <p>6) <u>UIC National Database</u></p> <p>Work will continue on this project dependent on state needs and resources available.</p> <p>7) <u>Other - Future Regulatory Issues – Marcellus Shale, Aquifer Storage and Recovery , Class VI wells.</u></p> <p>Maryland has a thin band of Devonian Marcellus shale in western Maryland’s Allegany and Garrett counties. This has drawn attention due to interest in natural gas produced using the technology of hydrofracing. The Department had proposed regulations for oil and gas exploration and production on January 9, 2015. On Monday, September 26, 2016, Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE or “the Department”) submitted a regulatory action to the Administrative, Executive, and Legislative Review (AELR) Committee. The purpose of the action was to update regulations governing the exploration and production of oil and gas to address technologies that were not typically employed in Maryland when the existing regulations were adopted, including hydraulic fracturing and horizontal drilling. However, on April 4, 2017, Maryland Governor Larry Hogan signed a bill establishing a ban on hydraulic fracturing in the State of Maryland. There are no wells in Maryland producing gas via hydraulic fracturing.</p>	

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	<p>Inquiries have also been made to Maryland's UIC program regarding aquifer storage and recovery (ASR) wells and managed aquifer recovery (MAR) wells. ASR wells are being considered in several locations in Maryland to store treated drinking water in an aquifer for later withdrawal and use during periods of peak demand. MAR wells are being considered in Anne Arundel County for wastewater disposal/aquifer replenishment. We have received an application for these wells, and it is currently under review. These types of wells are regulated differently across our country. Since MAR/ASR wells were not classified as high risk in the federal Phase I Class V Rule, states have regulatory discretion to require a permit or Rule authorize ASR wells. Nationwide UIC regulating authorities both Rule authorization and require discharge permits. In Maryland, UIC permitting decisions for ASR and MAR wells will be made on a case-by-case basis.</p> <p>Maryland, currently, does not have primacy for Class VI UIC wells, the new class for sequestering carbon dioxide. An initial intent was stated in a December 15, 2010, letter to Stephen Platt, from Robert Summers, Acting Secretary for MDE. Funding for this potentially significant increase in workload will be critical. There is now industry interest in evaluating the suitability of the subsurface geology in Maryland for potential carbon storage. If industry interest increases, Maryland may reconsider applying for Class VI primacy.</p> <p><u>8) Other Staff Development and Networking</u></p> <p>Maryland's UIC staff will take advantage of local opportunities for continued training and networking including attending Maryland's Annual Groundwater Symposium. New staff will attend EPA's UIC inspector training, if available. Maryland's UIC staff shall also attend the Groundwater Protection Council's UIC Conferences.</p>	